Target for Foreign Tourists

2325. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been upward growth in the tourist arrivals during the last three years;

(b) the comparative figures for these and the amount of foreign exchange earned by the tourism industry during each of the last three financial years, year-wise;

(c) what is the target fixed for the current financial year; and

(d) what has been the achievement made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The foreign tourist arrivals to India during the three financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 have been 2.45 million, 2.88 million and 3.54 million respectively. As per the information received from Reserve Bank of India, foreign exchange earnings from tourism during these three year have been US $ 3312 million, US$ 4122 million and US$ 5029 million respectively.

(c) and (d) No targets for arrival of foreign tourists or earnings from them are fixed by Ministry of Tourism. However, as per the estimates, 1.02 million foreign tourists arrived during 2005-06 (April to July 2005), and foreign exchange earnings during this period were US$ 1634 million.

Development of Mysore

2326. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared a Rs. 5 crore proposal to develop Mysore, if so, by when the amount if likely to be released;

(b) whether there is any proposal to bring Mysore, Coorg, Chamarajnagar and Mandya under one Tourism circuit; and

(c) if so, by when this is likely to take effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The project proposal to develop Mysore under Infrastructure and Destination Development has been prioritized for grant for central financial assistance during 2005-06. Proposals received in the Ministry of Tourism complete in all respects, are appraised on inter-se-priority basis and funds released, subject to availability under the respective head.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Development of places of tourist interest in Maharashtra and Punjab

2327. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Maharashtra and Punjab have requested the Centre to clear/sanction certain proposals pertaining to places of tourist interest which are pending for the last three years;

(b) what was the number of domestic and foreign tourist who visited Maharashtra and Punjab during 2003-04 in comparison to 2004-05, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) by when, Central Government are likely to sanction the above proposals so as to enable State Governments of Maharashtra and Punjab to take up works early next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, sir.

(b) The number of domestic and foreign tourists who visited Maharashtra and Punjab during the year 2003 and 2004 are as under:

State	Year	Domestic Tourist Arrivals	Foreign Tourist Arrivals
Maharashtra	2003	11272906	986544
Punjab	2003	1150015	4589
Maharashtra	2004	13392212	1218382
Punjab	2004	361568	7312